THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) The process of acquisition of an AJT has been prolonged due to a number of reasons. Government is keen on early finalization of the process. However, it would not be possible to lay down a definite frame.

Demand for Manipur Regiment in the Army

4413. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the demand of the people and the State Government of Manipur for a Manipur Regiment in the Indian Army;

(b) if so, the action so far taken by Government; and

(c) how long it will take for the demand to materialize?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) There is no proposal to raise a separate Manipur Regiment in the Indian Army.

(b) and (c) The policy of the government is not to raise any new regiment on the basis of a particular class, creed, community, religion or region, but to have an Army in which all Indians have representation.

Recruitment of Civil Engineers as ASW in MES

4414. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that degree holders in Civil Engineering are directly recruited as Assistance Surveyor of Work in Military Engineering Service;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that they are required to pass final examination from Institute of Surveyors before considering them for promotion to SW rank;

(c) if so, the details thereof including the number of such Assistant Surveyor of Work in Military Engineering Service who are

still waiting for promotion in the absence of passing final examination from Institute of Surveyors;

(d) whether Government proposed to reconsider this case on merit; and

(e) if not, why?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) As per existing Recruitment Rules (RRs), Assistant Surveyor of Works (ASWs) having 04 years regular service in the grade and having passed Final Examination of the Institution of Surveyors (India) (ISI) are eligible for promotion to the grade of Surveyor of Works (SW). There are 05 ASWs, who although having the requisite eligibility service for promotion are not educationally qualified as per the RRs. To hold this grade of Surveyors RRs are being suitably revised.

Illegal construction in Kanpur Cantonment Area

4415. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that unlawful and illegal constructions are going on in the military land in the Kanpur Cantonment area causing heavy financial loss;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to stop such illegal construction for commercial use including one being done at Pandit's Upvan Mahatma Gandhi Park, Kanpur Cantonment;

(c) what action has been taken against the local defaulting officials of the Military land and Cantonment Board at Kanpur; and

(d) the time by when Government proposed to demolish such illegal constructions there?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES):